



Freight Advisory Committee

AGENDA

August 20, 2025, 9:30 AM-10:49 AM

In-person: 1 Park Place, Colonie, NY 12205

[Virtual: contact Ethan Townsend for Zoom details](#)

Name	Title	Representing
Jim Mearkle	Traffic Engineer	Albany County DPW
Kate Maynard	Director of Planning & Economic Development	Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Pete Bardunias	Senior VP, Community Advancement	Capital Region Chamber
Ethan Townsend	Transportation Planner	Capital Reg. Transp. Council
Parker Morris	Transportation Planner	Capital Reg. Transp. Council
Adam McCarvill	Transportation Planner	Capital Reg. Transp. Council
David Nelson	Transportation Planner	Capital Reg. Transp. Council
Martin Hull	Director of Regional Planning	Capital Reg. Transp. Council
Leah Rye	Administrative Specialist	Capital Reg. Transp. Council
Juvena Ng	Traffic Engineer	CHA
Thomas Hulihan	Planning Director	City of Rensselaer
Melissa Cherubino	General Manager	City of Watervliet
Gautam Mani	Senior Community Planner	Federal Highway Association, NY Division
Greg Bedrosian	Strategic Initiatives & Process Excellence Logistics Leader	GE Vernova
Erica Beckford	CEO	MC Samuels Logistics
Valerie Deane	CHIPS, Rail & Bike/Ped Coord.	NYS DOT Region 1
Jeff Gritsavage	Eastern Region Water Management Engineer	NYS Canal Corporation
Doug Morris	Director of State Affairs	Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association
Mike Izdebski	Director, Logistics	Plug Power
Richard Hendrick	CEO	Port of Albany
John Schneidawin	Director of Strategic Initiatives	Port of Albany
Megan Daly	Chief Commerce Officer	Port of Albany
Dave Sawicz	Director of Transportation	Price Chopper/ Market 32
Ted Thompson	Interested Citizen	Public
Tom Phelan	Interested Citizen	Public
Jose Holguin-Veras	Director, Center for Infrastructure, Transportation & the Environment	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Kimberly Lambert	Senior Planner	Saratoga County
John Scavo	Director of Planning	Town of Clifton Park
Louis Esposito	Supervisor	Town of Princetown/OOIDA
Peter Comenzo	Senior Planner	Town of Rotterdam

Ryan Riper	Director of Engineering	Town of Wilton
Catherine Lawson	Prog. Director, Masters of Regional Planning	University at Albany

1. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting started at 9:35 AM.

2. Discussion Items:

a. Superload Corridors Study – Draft Scope of Work Review

Ethan Townsend shared that on July 16th, there was a large stakeholder meeting, designated as the Superload Task Force, with the Transportation Council. At the Task Force meeting, it was determined that the best path forward would be to undertake a consultant-led study to identify a route between GE and the Port and to develop a superload network throughout the region. At today's meeting, the main tasks for the study will be reviewed.

Task 1 includes a project kick-off meeting with the core project team. The Stakeholder and Public Outreach Plan (SPOP) will be developed, and the consultant will also develop public outreach activities. In addition to the SPOP, the study group will develop a data collection plan. There will be an initial Study Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting. If there is anyone that wasn't involved with that Task Force, that is interested in being part of the SAC for this study, please reach out to Ethan. The first SAC meeting will be primarily to review the SPOP and the data collection plan.

Task 2 will include data collection and an existing conditions report. Stakeholder meetings and site visits will be conducted as a part of this process, and there will also potentially be some public engagement. The consultant will prepare an existing conditions report, which will include the physical information that is found on the sites. The consultant will also prepare a literature review of any other relevant studies. The second SAC meeting will be convened to review the data that's been collected and to review the existing conditions report. Existing conditions will then feed into the actual concept development and the draft report, which is Task 3.

There was some group discussion about using the rail network or the Canal to transport GE's products to the Port. All modes of transportation are being considered for this study, but there

are some known limitations with the rail network and Canal. The extreme size and weight of the products coming out of GE Vernova makes using the rail network difficult. The Canal has been used for freight transport in the past, but lack of year-round access and difficulty getting from GE to the Canal are known barriers. Additionally, the Canal is spanned by some historic low bridges, especially around the Peebles Island area. However, the Canal will be examined as a possible route during the study.

There discussion about a CFA granted assist moving items to a new boat slip on the Canal across the way from the GE plant, around the year 2020. Based on the conversations he has had with current and former NYSDOT staff on the topic, Ethan understands that they were looking at trying to move freight loads across 890 to the Port, potentially re-designating certain ramps to be just for those loads or adding new ramps. At that time, it was determined to not be a viable option and was not advanced.

Task 3 is concept development and the draft report. Minnesota DOT's OSOW Superload Corridors network map is a potential model for this region. Candidate routes need to be identified between manufacturers and multimodal facilities. North-south and east-west routes through the region also need to be identified. For each of the candidate routes that are identified, suites of projects are needed that identify what needs to be done to address the constraints. Task 3 will also include any final stakeholder outreach and public involvement activities.

Ethan asked the group if anyone thought there was anything missing. Identifying funding sources, strategic borings under the roadway, and consideration of future freight transportation needs were all discussed.

In Task 4, a final report will be prepared. The final report will include SAC feedback and should also include potential areas for policy change. Task 4 will also include presentations to groups like the Transportation Council's Planning Committee or others.

Ethan asked if anyone in the group thought that anything was missing from the scope of work or had any general feedback. The involvement of the NYS Thruway Authority, cost estimation to go with identification of the candidate routes, the importance of timing (both length of time and time of day), showcasing the safety component of the project, and a recommendation that the study consider the relationship to the I-890 4C PEL Study were all discussed.

Any feedback is welcome. The Transportation Council doesn't anticipate putting out the RFP until mid-September at the earliest. Please send feedback to Ethan at

etownsend@capitalmpo.org.

b. In Motion 2050 Update

Ethan Townsend and Adam McCarvill provided an update on the In Motion Plan. The full draft Plan was released for public review by the Transportation Council's Planning Committee on August 6th. The Plan is currently in the final public review phase accepting written comments through September 3rd. Plan adoption is anticipated by the Transportation Council's Policy Board on September 4th. To review the plan and provide comments, please visit www.inmotionplan.org/participate, and please contact Adam with any questions at amccarvill@capitalmpo.org.

c. Capital District Clean Communities Update

Adam McCarvill provided an update on Capital District Clean Communities. The Transportation Council's contract for Clean Cities has been stopped until further notice, but Adam is still keeping projects and ideas in mind. Adam recently spoke with Chris Maslak, the Advanced Nuclear Market Development Executive for GE Vernova Hitachi, and discussed small modular nuclear reactors and the future of that technology. Additionally, the Transportation Council has been doing an EV siting technical assistance project for the City of Albany, pursuing on-street charging installations. There was a suggestion from a group member to include car rental companies in the discussions for the EV siting project, as some of them have electric vehicles as part of their fleet.

d. Status of Regional Planning Initiatives

Ethan Townsend provided an update on the status of the Transportation Council's recently completed, ongoing and upcoming planning initiatives, including Linkage Studies, Technical Assistance Projects, and Regional Planning Efforts.

3. Member Updates

Louis Esposito raised some concerns about the new BJ's (which will have a fuel station) going in on Route 7 near the junction of I-88 and I-90, specifically with regard to the potential for more trucks coming to the area to fuel and the lack of truck parking in that area. There was significant group discussion on this topic. Fuel contracts that trucking companies have in place with specific suppliers, as well as the unknown need for a BJ's membership in order to purchase fuel from a BJ's were brought up as possible dis-incentives for trucks to fuel at the new BJ's. Peter Comenzo shared that during the review process, the Town of Rotterdam went through a traffic study done by DHP. Different configurations for the access point and where it's located were looked at. The area is not designed for trucks to go in, and they won't be permitted.

There was a suggestion from a group member to collect data at other existing BJs or Costco fuel sites in the region, to get a sense of how much diesel fuel they're selling and the types of vehicles that they're selling that fuel to.

Richard Hendrick shared that since the superload issue was brought about, there has been a lot of forward progress, and he thanked everyone for all the work that has been done to move this along with the Transportation Council. Richard also shared details about the upcoming Port Industry Day, which will be relocated this year from the Port to the Capital Center. The Port Industry Day is scheduled for October 15th, and invites will be going out shortly.

4. Upcoming Meetings: November 19, 2025

The next Freight Advisory Committee meeting will be on November 19 at 9:30 AM.

Meeting ended at 10:49 AM.